

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T STATE 116107

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EXDIS - FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, EG, US, SO

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN USE OF C-130'S TO TRANSFER EQUIPMENT TO
SOMALIA

, BY SEPTELS, DEPARTMENT IS SENDING TEXTS OF RESPONSES
PROVIDED TO QUESTIONS "TAKEN" DURING COURSE OF MARCH 6
TESTIMONY BEFORE HAMILTON SUBCOMMITTEE OF HIRC RE EGYPTIAN
USE OF C-130'S IN LARNACA RAID AND TO TRANSFER MILITARY
EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA.

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2. WE REALIZE THAT THIS IS NOT MOST OPPORTUNE TIME TO
RAISE WITH GOE ISSUE OF VIOLATION OF TERMS OF SALE FOR
C-130'S, GIVEN INCREASED EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITY TO ANY DI-
RECT OR IMPLIED CRITICISM AS PROPOSED F-5 SALE WORKS ITS
WAY THROUGH CONGRESS (AND GOE REACTION TO ITEMS SUCH AS
FELDMAN INTERVIEW). NONETHELESS, RESPONSES, INCLUDING COM-
MITMENT TO RAISE SOMALI CASE WITH GOE, WILL BE A MATTER

OF PUBLIC RECORD WHEN HIRC PUBLISHES HEARINGS (HIRC STAFFER STATES THAT REPORT HAS GONE TO GPO AND SHOULD BE PUBLISHED IN ABOUT A WEEK). POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY AT SOME POINT MIGHT COME ACROSS REPLIES AND REPORT BACK TO CAIRO.

3. HENCE, WHILE WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY'S DISCRETION TIMING AND

LEVEL OF DEMARCHE TO CARRY OUT COMMITMENT TO CONGRESS RE EGYPTIAN USE OF C-130'S IN SOMALIA CONTEXT, WE OFFER FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR USE:

--WE SHARE GOE'S CONCERN FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SURROUNDING AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND HOPE TO CONTINUE FRUITFUL DIALOGUE ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

--WE APPRECIATE GOE'S CANDIDNESS IN INFORMING US OF USE OF C-130'S IN PAST, SPECIFICALLY TO INCLUDE USE IN TRANSFER-RING EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA.

--HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN CONGRESSIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN THAT THE GOE USE OF C-130'S TO TRANSFER EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOA AGREEMENTS REQUIRED BY LAW.

--WE RECOGNIZE THAT GOE MAY HAVE MISINTERPRETED CONGRES-
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SIONAL TESTIMONY RE POSSIBLE USE OF C-130'S IN AFRICAN CONTEXT TO CONSTITUTE PRIOR CONSENT TO USE SUCH AS THAT IN QUESTION. THIS, OF COURSE, IS NOT THE CASE. (TEXTS OF RESPONSES TO HIRC SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO GOE.)

--LEGAL DETERMINATION SET FORTH IN REPLY TO CONGRESS ON USE OF C-130'S IN SOMALIA TAKES INTO ACCOUNT FACT THAT USG COULD NOT HAVE UNDERTAKEN DIRECT ACTION OF SIMILAR NATURE AT THAT TIME, GIVEN OUR CLEAR POSITION CONCERNING SOMALI INCURSIONS IN THE OGADEN.

--OUR PRESENT PLANS FOR SUPPORT OF SOMALIA ARE CONSISTENT WITH OUR OFFER TO HELP MEET THAT GOVERNMENT'S NEEDS FOR SELF-DEFENSE WITHIN ITS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES. WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES FROM OGADEN AND SOMALI ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL NOT USE FORCE AGAINST NEIGHBORS; THAT U.S. ORIGIN ARMS WILL ONLY BE USED FOR INTERNAL SECURITY AND LEGITIMATE DEFENSE OF INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED TERRITORY OF SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAVE ENABLED US TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON HOW DELICATE DEMARCHE

ON USE OF C-130'S MIGHT BEST BE HANDLED. IF EGYPTIANS DO
NOT RAISE MATTER, YOU MAY PREFER TO POSTPONE ACTION UNTIL
WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS MATTER DIRECTLY DURING
YOUR FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. TALKING
POINTS FOR YOUR USE IN BRIEFING MUBARAK (CAIRO 12167) BE-
ING SENT SEPTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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